(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Agriculture has not received any specific proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for development of water-sheds.

However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Water Resources, amounting to Rs. 221.47 crores for renovation of 2359 water bodies with German assistance. The proposal was included in the Annual Indo-German Consultations held in New Delhi during May 10-11, 2005. The proposal was not considered for funding by the German side.

Soil Erosion

3366. SHRI R.S. GAVAI:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of soil erosion is growing at an unacceptable rate in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the country's average soil erosion rate per hectare per annum and the present rate of soil erosion;

(c) Government's response thereto; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for solving the problem by implementing various programmes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The soil formation and erosion is a natural process occurring simultaneously to maintain the equilibrium in eco-system. Due to over exploitation, unscientific use of natural resources etc. the land denudation is more than natural formation.

As per available estimate, the average rate of soil erosion in the country is 16.4 tonnes per hectare per year and over 5.3 billion tonnes of soil is lost every year through soil erosion. Soil loss varies from less than 1 tonnes/ha./year in dense forest area to more than 80 tonnes/ha./year in

the denuded Shivalik hills. Study conducted by National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP), envisages out of 328.60 million ha., about 146.82 million ha. area (45%) is suffering from various kinds of land degradation as given below:

Sl.No.	Type of Land Degradation	Extent of Area in million ha.
1.	Water erosion	93.66
2.	Wind erosion	9.48
3.	Water logging	14.30
4.	Salinity/alkalinity	5.95
5.	Soil acidity	16.03
6.	Complex problem	7.38
Total Degraded area		**146.82**

(c) and (d) With a view to control soil erosion and land degradation, Government of India is implementing following Schemes/Programmes:—

(i) National Water-shed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(ii) Soil conservation for Enhancing the Productivity of Degraded Lands in the Catchment of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)

(iii) Reclamations of Alkali Soil (RAS)

(iv) Water-shed Development Project in Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA).

(v) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).

(vi) Desert Development Programme (DDP).

(vii) Integrated Waste-land Development Programme (IWDP).

Under above programme upto March, 2005, about 28.5 million ha. has been developed with expenditure of Rs. 14577.00 crore.